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Governor Doyle Seeks Federal Disaster Aid For Tornado Victims in Three Counties

Damages From Tornadoes Estimated at More Than \$47 Million

Governor Jim Doyle today formally asked President Bush for a federal disaster declaration for Dane, Richland, and Vernon Counties as a result of the damage caused by more than two dozen confirmed tornadoes that hit Wisconsin on August 18, 2005. Damage from the tornadoes is estimated at more than \$47 million.

"A record number of tornadoes pounded our state last week, causing widespread damage, numerous injuries, and the loss of a life," Governor Doyle said. "Many people are now homeless as a result of the destruction. I urge the President to move quickly to approve this much needed assistance."

The Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Small Business Administration, Wisconsin Department of Transportation, and Wisconsin Emergency Management conducted damage assessments with local officials in the three counties that showed that more than 400 homes were impacted, including 67 that were destroyed.

In the declaration, Governor Doyle requested federal disaster aid for individuals, businesses, and local governments in the hardest hit counties of Dane, Richland, and Vernon Counties. The formal request was sent to President Bush and the Federal Emergency Management Agency today. The state hopes to be notified of the request for federal disaster assistance within the next week.

Read Governor Doyle's letter to President Bush:

<http://www.wisgov.state.wi.us/docview.asp?docid=3719&locid=19>.